

Kelly Savoie ([00:00](#)):

Hello, Clear Skies Ahead listeners. This is Kelly Savoie and I'm hoping you can take a moment of your time to rate and review our show wherever you listen to podcasts. We have produced over 100 episodes, and you can help us reach even more individuals that will benefit from the diverse experiences shared by our guests. Thanks so much for listening, and I hope you enjoyed this new episode.

Welcome to the American Meteorological Society's podcast series, Clear Skies Ahead, conversations about careers in meteorology and beyond. I'm Kelly Savoie, and I'm here with Emma Collins and we'll be your hosts. We're excited to give you the opportunity to step into the shoes of an expert working in weather, water, and climate sciences.

Emma Collins ([00:52](#)):

We're happy to introduce today's guest, Emily Gracey, digital content producer for the National Weather Desk in Charleston, South Carolina. Welcome, Emily. Thanks so much for joining us today.

Emily Gracey ([01:02](#)):

Hi, Kelly. Hi, Emma. Thanks for having me.

Kelly Savoie ([01:04](#)):

Emily, could you tell us a little bit about what sparked your interest in meteorology and how it influenced your educational path?

Emily Gracey ([01:10](#)):

Sure. I'd love to say I have a really exciting story of a childhood storm or something, but I really don't. I was good at math and science growing up, and I think my career path was always headed down one of those routes, and I didn't really know meteorology was a career. And then in high school, like many people my age, I saw a very influential movie called Twister, which definitely put me in that direction of I want to do that. I don't know quite what that is, but I'm going to head in that direction. So that's how I wound up looking at schools for meteorology.

Kelly Savoie ([01:52](#)):

And so what school did you end up going to and how did you decide on that? Did you have several on your list?

Emily Gracey ([01:58](#)):

I did. Yeah. So I think junior year of high school printed off the list of colleges around the country that had a meteorology major. I grew up in Connecticut and I didn't really want to stay close to home. I wanted to go south somewhere a little warmer. So I was looking at schools in the Carolinas. We wound up doing some college tours and I toured this adorable little school in Western North Carolina called UNC Asheville, and I fell in love with it, and so that's where I wound up going.

Emma Collins ([02:29](#)):

So were there any professional development or networking opportunities you pursued while in school that helped you find employment after graduating?

Emily Gracey ([02:36](#)):

Yes. So I did two internships when I was in college. The first I did at a TV station in Connecticut, the second I did at the TV station in Asheville, North Carolina where I was going to school. That one wound up being much more influential for me because I was given a lot of free reign. I was given a lot of responsibility. I learned a lot. And the chief meteorologist, great guy who wound up going to the Weather Channel shortly afterwards, his name is Mike Bettes you might be familiar. So he was my boss. He was the chief at this little station in Asheville. And I learned so much from him about weather, about the business, and it really left me in this place of I want to go into this exciting world of TV broadcasting. I don't know if I want to be on air, but I know I want to be in this realm where it's very exciting and I wound up going in that direction.

Kelly Savoie ([03:34](#)):

And while you were in school, did they have any opportunities for you to actually practice doing any broadcasting work? I know some of the colleges have that, but not all of them do.

Emily Gracey ([03:43](#)):

Yeah, UNC Asheville didn't really, I think they do more now, but this was back late nineties, early two thousands. So what we wound up doing, me and a couple other people is we would take PowerPoint presentations and we would go into the basement of the library and there was a TV studio set up in there, but nobody really used it. It's like this dusty studio that went unused. So we would make tapes down there. I hope all any sort of copies of this is long gone at this point. They were so bad. But I do remember I went and I bought a blazer because that's what you did in the day. You put on a blazer, and I did my hair all straight and tried to look like a TV person that I had seen, and we would go in the basement and pretend to be grownups and make these tapes and they were so, so bad. But as time went on, I did the internship and was able to practice at the TV station as well in a much better setup. But yeah, we worked with what we could. It wasn't really a TV driven college. So I would say a lot of the people I went to college with went on to grad school or just didn't go into the industry at all.

Kelly Savoie ([04:55](#)):

So it sounds like you did want to go into the industry. So what was your first job in the field and what other positions paved your way to the National Weather Desk?

Emily Gracey ([05:05](#)):

Oh, gosh. So I've had a variety of different jobs kind of all across the weather map here. The first job I had though I was really fortunate because of that internship I did in college with Mike Bettes. He, shortly after that, went to the Weather Channel, and I happened to move to Georgia with my then boyfriend at the time who was going to grad school at UGA and just started applying for jobs at the Weather Channel because it was there and Mike got me this job. He recommended me for this part-time weather producer position at the Weather Channel. So my first job in weather after I graduated was at the Weather Channel. And it was wild because I wasn't on air, but I was in the background. And so my dad would turn on the TV on the Weather Channel, and he would see me in the background on national TV, which was wild. It was really exciting to be able to tell people about that.

Kelly Savoie (06:00):

Yeah, that's impressive that your first job is at the Weather Channel. That's a place that everybody's heard of. That is really cool.

Emily Gracey (06:07):

Yeah, I was working among all of my heroes. I was getting to learn from all of these people, which was really nice because I had this real low end position. I worked overnights and I worked part-time and I made graphics, but I was making graphics for people that I had grown up watching. So that was really cool. And then they were all just so nice and helped me learn weather and helped me learn the industry during the time that I was there.

Kelly Savoie (06:32):

And so where did you go from there?

Emily Gracey (06:34):

Well, from there I wound up moving up to the Mid-Atlantic and once again was like, I am just going to apply for whatever weather jobs I can find. There was an opening at the American Meteorological Society in Washington dc. So it was the education program. It was a program assistant position. So I did that for actually a few years. I worked in DC for the education program of AMS. I did everything from working on the undergraduate programs. I would help with some of the workbooks and the weekly lessons that went out. And then the development of the climate course was going on at the time. And so I helped with some of the editing of that textbook. And then I still some of the diversity programs for the undergrad programs too. So I would go out to these workshops that they would have. I got to travel and go to different conferences and workshops and represent AMSI went to annual meetings. That was also just a wild, great experience. And that still to this day has been incredibly beneficial because of the big names that I met, just the people that were in that DC office, because the policy program was there. So I became friends with Bill Hook and Dick Hallgren, and Ira Geer was my boss. So these big names in the weather community that still to this day have been influential for me.

Kelly Savoie (07:58):

So that was a good shift from, it was just the private sector to nonprofit. And then did you have any other on-air positions before you started doing digital?

Emily Gracey (08:13):

Yes. So then I had never done on-air before because the Weather Channel was all graphics based. So then I actually got a job as a weather producer in Baltimore, Maryland. And because I kind of did want to go into TV, I decided to leave AMS and take this job in Baltimore. It was a part-time position as a graphics meteorologist, once again, just making graphics for the chief. And then once again, I started practicing and doing some stuff on air, and they wound up giving me the weekend position, which was open. So I started doing on air in Baltimore, started first job on air in a large market. I've been very fortunate now that I talk about all these opportunities. So many opportunities. So I worked there, and then I moved on from there to a different Baltimore station, and then I eventually wound up in Charleston, South Carolina at the local station here. So I did actually about 15 years on air weather during that time.

Kelly Savoie ([09:15](#)):

And were you nervous about it since that was the first time you were doing an on-air position, or were you just ok.

Emily Gracey ([09:22](#)):

Oh, I was a mess. A mess. I mean, the first time you're on air, you're like, you just, oh, it's nerve wracking. And it happens for a while. You feel like that, and then just one day all of a sudden you don't care anymore. And towards the end of my career on air, I probably didn't care enough. We'd come back from commercial break and I'd be like, oh, look, we're up. Or you become so used to, it just becomes second nature. So yeah, that was a very interesting experience that whole time on air. Glad it's over.

Kelly Savoie ([10:01](#)):

Yeah, I'm sure that's a tough industry, and especially with the hours and the shifts and your work life balance is not great.

Emily Gracey ([10:09](#)):

For sure, for sure. I did have a family during that time, which impacted all of that, and my hours were crazy. And then you're never really off the clock unless the weather's quiet. And there's a lot of distractions too. You kind of lose focus of weather a lot of times because people are commenting more on how you look or what you said or your home life. And so I did feel, I'd say a little less myself during that time period. And more that you're playing a role of what's expected of you.

Kelly Savoie ([10:49](#)):

And was that one of the reasons why you decided to transition out of it?

Emily Gracey ([10:53](#)):

For sure. Yeah. And I think the industry too. I could see kind of the writing on the wall of things are changing. And I was at a station where I was seeing a lot of people come and go. I was getting older, but I knew that I also, at that point in my career, I had no longer thought, okay, I want to climb the ladder here. The goal is no longer to be a national meteorologist. I don't want to go back to the Weather channel and be on air. And so I was starting to see my goals shifting, and I thought, well, I did it when I turned 40 actually. I was like, it's time for my second act.

([11:35](#)):

And my contract was up. They were on a wage freeze. All of the signs were there. And I thought if I resign for another three years, in three years, I'm going to be bitter upset. And I didn't want to leave the industry that way. I wanted to leave on a high note, and I wanted to leave on good terms with my station, which wound up really working out for me for where I'm at now, because I'm still with the same company. So they did come back to me, and I still work for Sinclair Broadcast Group, who I've worked for since 2010, which they've been good to me. So I didn't burn any bridges on my way out the door, I guess.

Emma Collins ([12:16](#)):

But sometimes you need to have that realization. You have to have the experience to get there and to say, okay, time for something new.

Emily Gracey ([12:22](#)):

Yeah, once I left too, I did have a period of a year where I thought I wasn't really finding what fit for me. I had done some freelancing, I've done some little things here and there, but I kind of had that panic moment of, am I not qualified for anything else? What else is out there for me? And then when this popped up, I was like, yes, this is exactly, and since then I've felt that way. This is exactly what I should be doing, and it's been the most fulfilling job of my career for sure.

Emma Collins ([12:52](#)):

That's awesome. So could you walk us through a typical day on this job as a digital content producer?

Emily Gracey ([12:58](#)):

Yes. I think what I like is that no two days are the same, and TV every day was exactly the same. Depending on the weather. There would be some days that were a little different, but every day like, oh my gosh, the monotony of local TV weather, especially on the morning shift, it's like I never had to look at a clock every day was exactly the same. But for me now, it's really project dependent. So I would say 80% of my job is working on the podcast. Our podcast, we have Off the Radar podcast, and then it's kind of digital content. And I do a lot of stuff that's weather dependent. So like a day today where last night there was a tsunami and a tsunami warning, and that was the big weather story of the day. So trying to find how I can take any old content that we have or create new, fresh, original content or find content from our local stations to utilize that somehow, either in our digital brand or our on air brand. And then in between, I edit podcasts, come up with new ideas, record podcasts, and promote the podcast, which is very time consuming.

Kelly Savoie ([14:17](#)):

We know how it can be. So when you work as a digital content specialist, are you actually updating the webpages in real time and working on stories and content that way? Is that how it works?

Emily Gracey ([14:34](#)):

So we have a team of six, and we all kind of do different things. I would say I am more on the social media side of things when it comes to the digital content. And we don't really have a huge website presence. We have articles. I don't generally write the articles, but I would say I do more of the social media and a lot of what I bring to the table, because we only have two meteorologists on our team, is the original content. So if somebody says we need an explainer on what a tsunami is, then I will track find graphics, write, put something together, put it in the format that it needs to go in, whether it be a 16 by nine for our TV show or a nine by 16 for our TikTok, I will edit those, add music, and then post them. So from start to finish, the digital creation of all of that content, it sounds like a really fun job and rewarding,

Emma Collins ([15:34](#)):

Like fun and creative. Yeah,

Emily Gracey ([15:35](#)):

It is. And nobody really tells me what to do either, which is nice. So day to day, I either come up with ideas or I chat with my boss and we kind of work on something together, or somebody on our team will

say, oh, it'd be cool if we had this. And I'll say, I'll do it, but nobody's like, you have to do this today. I really do what I need to do each day, and I'm given a lot of independence to do that.

Kelly Savoie ([15:59](#)):

And you get to work remotely as well. Do you ever have to go into an office or is there no office for this?

Emily Gracey ([16:04](#)):

So is I'm just the only person on the team that works remotely. So they all work out of Arlington, Virginia, WJLA is the TV station there, the Sinclair station. So our team is all based out of there. I would say I go there every few months, but I generally work from the shed in my backyard. Hey, that's great. It is great. It's my little office and it's set apart from my house, so I don't have dogs barking or kids running through, which is nice. I do track and record stuff a lot, so it's good to have the quiet.

Kelly Savoie ([16:38](#)):

Right. So you said that you've had a pretty varied career. What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced?

Emily Gracey ([16:49](#)):

I think the challenges that pop up. Every time I'm between jobs are always something I battle, but I also at this point in life know that something always comes back around. When I'm in a rut and I'm not finding something that suits me, there will be something. So I know that at this point, probably the first challenge in my career, and you hear about this in TV, contracts not being renewed, losing your job in TV. It happened to me in my first job, my very first job, there was a change in management, A new news director came in and I was cut, and I could not believe it. My ego was so bruised, which is funny, looking back at it now, like who did I think I was? And then I see it happen to people now, and I'm like, how did they not see that coming? That's just the industry, and it's really, it stinks. It is awful, but it's also a good ego check and it keeps you grounded. So I'm glad for that. But at the time, it felt awful. It's like somebody telling you, I don't want to be your friend anymore. And it's personal too. It wasn't like, I even remember I was in my twenties, I was so young, and I remember asking the news director, why? And she said, you're just not very good. And I was like, oh my gosh. Oh, you couldn't have lied to me.

Kelly Savoie ([18:18](#)):

That's rough. And I mean, I hear from other broadcast meteorologists who have had similar things happen, and a lot of them don't see it coming. A lot of them are just blindsided, and they're like, what? Wait, what's happening?

Emily Gracey ([18:35](#)):

Yeah, that's why I'm glad it happened. My first job, every job after that, I'm delightfully surprised that they want to keep me.

Kelly Savoie ([18:43](#)):

Yeah, you learn quickly how that industry works.

Emily Gracey ([18:46](#)):

Never get too comfortable. But it does create this paranoia every time you're in a job too, and every time your contract is coming up, it's just such a weird business. And now I have the luxury of I know that I'm good at what I do. If I lost this job, my life would not be over. I would move on. And also, I'm not under contract. I feel much more free than I ever did before, much more sure of myself, and it's a nice place to be.

Emma Collins ([19:18](#)):

So working as a forecaster for so many years, you must have experienced many weather events. What is the most memorable one that you can think of?

Emily Gracey ([19:30](#)):

It's funny. I always think of the weather events that also aligned with something personal in my life. And I think a lot of people do that. They think, okay, this is what was going on when this happened personally. And so that for me, helps me connect dates too, where I remember when this happened because it was during this hurricane. So a few that stand out for me was when I worked at the Weather Channel. It was a very active season, the 2004, 2005 hurricane seasons. So I do remember all of those hurricanes pretty well, including Hurricane Katrina, but I wasn't living it, you know what I mean? I was seeing it and I was a part of the action, but I wasn't there. So I think until I moved to Charleston, South Carolina and experienced my first hurricane. So Hurricane Matthew is what I'm thinking. I just started at the station here.

([20:24](#)):

I had a little kid, and so I had to decide with my husband, do they leave? I know I'm not leaving, but do they evacuate? It was really, really tough to make those decisions for your family at the same time that you are trying to handle work. So that one stands out to me. And then also Superstorm Sandy stands out to me because I found out I was pregnant in the middle of it with my son. So that's another one I remember. I'll always remember, this is the day that I found out I was pregnant with my son because I immediately had to go off to work and stand in the rain and report in Annapolis, Maryland on Sandy.

Kelly Savoie ([21:05](#)):

How often do people actually have to evacuate and go somewhere else in Charleston? Is it often?

Emily Gracey ([21:14](#)):

So there was a time there where we had year after year after year, we had something every year where people were evacuating and happened to be those first five years that I was here, where every season there was something, they don't call them mandatory anymore, but they do recommend evacuations. And so I would say we haven't had one in a few years, so probably it comes in waves, but it's tough. It's tough to evacuate a city. And I think the hurricane center is really pushing too lately. You don't have to evacuate 400 miles away, maybe you evacuate four miles away and you're just out of this zone that could get surge or out of this area where trees might fall on your house. So these mini evacuations are becoming a little bit more of a thing. It's hard to evacuate.

Kelly Savoie ([22:11](#)):

I was going to say. Yeah. Yeah. Where do you go? How long do you need to be away for? What do you take with you? Yeah. I mean, you have to be able to afford to move somewhere else.

Emily Gracey ([22:22](#)):

Pets.

Kelly Savoie ([22:22](#)):

Yes. Your pets. You can't take a pet to a hotel.

Emily Gracey ([22:25](#)):

Yeah, it's a real privilege. And it's funny because some people here during the hurricanes, they all go to Asheville, but it's like their little mini vacation where they're like, all right, let's go to the upstate or to Western North Carolina and stay in our mountain home or stay with friends, but what a privilege. Yeah, not everybody has that opportunity.

Kelly Savoie ([22:45](#)):

And then the alternative is just to be in one big, huge football stadium or convention center

Emily Gracey ([22:53](#)):

Or something that doesn't sound fun. And after Katrina and the Superdome, nobody wants to do that. That looks worse than just being in your home. So it's definitely a problem. I think the hurricane center is still trying to battle with what the right thing is to do, and the false alarm thing too, where people have been stuck on the interstate and worse weather than they would've experienced if they were at home or they did evacuate and things weren't that bad. And so the next time they just might not do it. There's a lot of complications there.

Kelly Savoie ([23:27](#)):

Yeah, it's very tricky. So you mentioned previously that you produce, edit, and host a podcast. Could you tell our listeners more about it?

Emily Gracey ([23:36](#)):

Sure. So Off the Radar is my little passion project. I have always, always, always wanted to do a podcast. And so when the folks at Sinclair said, we should start a weather podcast, Emily, do you want to do it? I was like, yes, which was great because I had the passion to do it, but I had absolutely no knowledge of how to do a podcast. But Sinclair has this whole podcasting team. So they got me set up with the equipment, trained me on how to edit, did a lot of talking to people within the company about what makes a good podcast, what makes a good story, how do you put it all together? How do you market it, which is half the battle? How do you tell people about it? And so I got to learn the whole process. And so I, from the beginning, have pretty much done this entirely on my own.

([24:32](#)):

In the past six months or so, they've given me an associate producer, which is really nice. So I do have an associate producer, his name's Brian, and he will help me with some of the topics. He'll always listen to them. He is a great writer. So he'll help me with some of the intros and tags and just a sounding board for what's the best way we can put this together? Or this one's a real dud, how can we snaz it up a little? But so author radar is, in my eyes, it's where science meets humanity. So it's this intersection of, okay, here's the story. Here's how it impacted people. Here's maybe a survivor, here's what happened, or

here's the history of it. And then talking to someone who's an expert in the field, somebody who is doing research that might be making that better. So it's that intersection of the science and the learning and the what's next with the why do we do this? Who does it help the humanity of it to make people feel and learn, I guess is always my goal.

Kelly Savoie ([25:44](#)):

Yeah, that sounds really exciting. And we find that some of the hardest parts of the podcast are finding individuals that are willing to participate and just doing that legwork and also finding a time that works for everyone. It's like the little things. And then once you have that, just doing the podcast is fun, what we're doing now. Yeah.

Emily Gracey ([26:08](#)):

It's funny because I'm always surprised that people are so willing. I have reached out to people before and been like, well, this is a long shot, but I'll give it a try. And they say yes, which is really, really nice to hear. And then I do get a little stressed out with the putting it all together, okay, I did this interview, but where is this going? How do I tell this story in a way that's impactful? And then it'll come to me in the middle of the night like, oh, I need to do this, or I need to pull this little bit from history. So working in sound bites or that ties it all together, and that's the creative part that I really, really love.

Emma Collins ([26:48](#)):

I was going to ask if you had a favorite podcast that you'd done or a favorite guest.

Emily Gracey ([26:54](#)):

Yes. So recently, actually, I did a podcast episode with a climate scientist named Adam Met, and he is the bassist in the band, AJR, I don't know if you've heard of them. So my kids love this band. And so we were at a concert and they kind of halfway through the concert, started talking about climate change. And I was like, whoa. And so I did a little research and I found out, oh, he's a climate scientist. He has a PhD. And the whole time that he was on tour with his brothers in this band, he was getting his PhD. And so I reached out to his publicist thought, why not? And she called me and she was like, no, this is great. He wrote a book. He wants to promote it. He'd love to come on your podcast.

Emma Collins ([27:42](#)):

That's awesome.

Emily Gracey ([27:43](#)):

And she said, also, you can have the rights to use all of their music in the podcast as long as you give them credit. So that one's my favorite one because of the edit that I did on it. And because I knew the music well, I knew, okay, this part of the interview we're talking about this, so I'm going to pull this song in and drop it here. So that for me, was the most rewarding, and it's the one I've gone back and listened to the most to, because he did say really inspirational things about climate action and just ways that you can find the energy and the motivation to kind of move forward with whatever you're doing in life that may be impactful to society.

Kelly Savoie ([28:26](#)):

Oh, we should consider having him as a speaker at one of our conferences. Wouldn't that be good?

Emily Gracey ([28:30](#)):

Oh my gosh, yes. That's such a great idea. Let me know. I'll put you in touch with his publicist.

Kelly Savoie ([28:36](#)):

Yes. Yeah, seriously. How often do you release podcasts?

Emily Gracey ([28:41](#)):

Every week.

Kelly Savoie ([28:41](#)):

Oh, wow. That is a lot.

Emily Gracey ([28:43](#)):

Yeah, it's a lot. Yeah,

Emily Gracey ([28:47](#)):

I know. It's like this never ending deadline. And every once in a while, especially in the summer, I'll do some reruns, but I usually put a fresh intro on them, especially if it's a relevant rerun or one that did really well. So I don't know if you know Craig Setzer?

Kelly Savoie ([29:04](#)):

Yes,

Emily Gracey ([29:04](#)):

Yes. You know who he is? He is the chief meteorologist for Royal Caribbean, but he worked in TV for a long time. I did an episode with him about cruise forecasting, and it was super popular. So I rereleased that this summer when I was traveling, I just put a fresh intro on it. Or sometimes if I have a Christmas episode where I did one about the North Pole and the weather of the North Pole, or I did a Thanksgiving episode about the weather that the pilgrims experienced when they landed in Plymouth. So I'll rerun some of those, but I'll add new little tidbits to them.

Emma Collins ([29:36](#)):

That's really cool. Sorry, I'm still thinking about the band. That's awesome. I was just listening to them earlier.

Emily Gracey ([29:43](#)):

Kelly's probably like, I don't dunno who they're, and Emma's like, oh yeah, I love AJR

Kelly Savoie ([29:47](#)):

Now I have to listen to them.

Emily Gracey ([29:49](#)):

No, it's good. You'll like them. Because I didn't know who they were until my kids kind of brought them up to me. And then I was like, this is really good music. I really, really, I actually really enjoy going to their concerts now.

Emma Collins ([30:01](#)):

They're a lot of fun too. The songs themselves are very fun.

Emily Gracey ([30:05](#)):

Is they're fun and they're innocent, but also not innocent. They'll be about childhood and leaving home, and then they'll throw in some heavy topics here and there, but they're all kind of different

Emma Collins ([30:17](#)):

Songs too. So far it sounds like you just have the coolest job, honestly,

Emily Gracey ([30:21](#)):

I think I do. I really like it.

Emma Collins ([30:25](#)):

So to the surprise of no one, you have been awarded both the AMS Certified Broadcast Meteorologist Seal as well as the AMS Certified Digital Meteorologist designation. Do you see more on air meteorologists shifting over to the digital world?

Emily Gracey ([30:39](#)):

Yeah. I don't know that they're leaving behind the broadcast world, but I think it's unavoidable. Even TV stations are like, you need to put just as much effort into what you're doing digitally as you are on air. And sometimes even first, it might need to be moved forward. And it's hard to get out of that mindset when you've been doing this for 15 or 20 years. So some of the people who've been around that long, they're like, oh, no TV first, and then I'll post something online. But it's actually the opposite. People are increasingly going online first because it's immediate rather than waiting for the newscast to come on. So yeah, I think whether they like it or not, people are shifting some more willing, some less willing. I've seen some people embrace it and go fully that direction, which is where we're seeing a surge in the CDM. For me, definitely, it was without a doubt, something I wanted to shift over to the CDM because I knew I am not going to be on air anymore. I'm not going to be in local TV anymore. And so even if I do fill in somewhere, I feel like the CDM holds that credential of, okay, she has a degree in, she's legit. But yeah, I almost feel like the CDM encompasses much more, whereas the CBM now is a little bit more narrow.

Kelly Savoie ([32:04](#)):

And I think that was one of the reasons why we started to offer it because it left out a whole group of people who just weren't on air meteorologists who could use a credential for all the other work that they do.

Emily Gracey ([32:18](#)):

And it's cool with the CDM too, I see a lot of people who I'm like, oh, I didn't know that was a thing, including all these groups of people that didn't really realize there's such a diverse community of people. Even I was on the ad hoc committee for when we were developing the CDM and the people that were on the ad committee. I was like, oh, this is so cool what they do. And then I think they look at me and they're like, oh, she's a CDM. She doesn't forecast at all. I don't do any forecasting. Everything I put out there is weather content, but it's not forecasting. It's weather information. It's weather education, which is really what I prefer. So I think it's really cool to see all these different things that people are doing digitally.

Kelly Savoie ([33:04](#)):

We're so grateful for everything you've told us about your career. However, before we go, we always ask our guests one last fun question at the end of our show. So we want to ask, what is your favorite book or books?

Emily Gracey ([33:20](#)):

Yeah, I was going to say I don't

Emma Collins ([33:22](#)):

Could be multiple books.

Emily Gracey ([33:22](#)):

Yeah, people can't see me. I'm surrounded by books in my office here. I love to read. I love, love, love to read. I read a lot, but I don't read to learn. I read for pleasure.

Emma Collins

You can learn.

Emily Gracey ([33:40](#)):

I do. I do learn. You're right, Emma, because I love historical fiction, so I learn a lot about history and you know what I do? I love historical weather fiction too. I don't know. I'm not answering your question at all. I realize I love anything by Kristen Hannah, and I'm based in Charleston, so Pat Conroy is always a favorite, really anything kind of dark. There's Nazis in it. I'll probably read it. If there's childhood trauma, I'll probably read it. But I like everything. I like all fiction. I don't generally read nonfiction, but I do love fiction. Anything that kind of helps me escape is really entertaining for me.

Kelly Savoie ([34:28](#)):

Yeah, I like mostly fiction. I have read a couple of nonfiction books about history. I read one a few years ago, I think it was called Team of Rivals, and it was all about Abraham Lincoln when he was president. It was so interesting. And I'll tell you, I learned more about that period of time that American history just from reading that one book than I ever did in school. So that's my recommendation. If you want to just go on over to the nonfiction historical side...

Emily Gracey ([35:07](#)):

Kelly sounds a little bit of a snoozer. I need a love story or some sort of family story in there. I need historical fiction. I need a little more interesting than history actually was.

Emma Collins ([35:18](#)):

History can be really interesting though, I promise.

Kelly Savoie ([35:20](#)):

Yes. And you can come back and after you read it, it was not boring. I mean, you're reading about the alcoholic generals who are still able to perform their duties and just everything about Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War was very interesting. And then they had the assassination attempts. It wasn't just Lincoln, it was a whole bunch of people in his cabinet. It was crazy. I couldn't believe it was real. Some of the stuff that I had never learned about and I'm like, oh my goodness, this is nuts.

Emily Gracey ([35:55](#)):

I'd be a good audio book. I can do a nonfiction audio book.

Kelly Savoie ([35:59](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Try that.

Emma Collins ([36:01](#)):

You mentioned historical weather fiction, I think. Do you have an example? I'm so curious about what

Emily Gracey ([36:06](#)):

I do, and this was a podcast, Emma, so you should take a listen. So there was this book, Chanel Clayton is the author, and it was called The Last Train to Key West. And it's about the 1935 Labor Day hurricane that hit the Florida Keys, wiped out the railroad. They never rebuilt that railroad. So there was literally this last train ride to Key West, and it kind of takes you through the lives of these people that were on the train and the World War I vets that were in camps in the keys that got washed out. So it was historical fiction, but I did a podcast episode on it where I interviewed somebody who was an expert on the hurricane, but then I also reached out to the author of the book, Chanel Clayton, and she said yes, which was great. So she was on the podcast talking about the research that she put into it and how she went down there and learned about the landscape and the community and the Cuban influence and how to write about these people. So I loved that. It was like the people and the science once again, so that I highly recommend all of her books are historical fiction, and they're all great.

Emma Collins ([37:08](#)):

I'm also going to have to check out that episode

Emily Gracey ([37:10](#)):

Now. Yes, for sure.

Emma Collins ([37:11](#)):

That and the other episode,

Emily Gracey ([37:13](#)):

All of them, just listen to them, all of them.

Emma Collins ([37:16](#)):

Well, thanks so much for joining us, Emily, and for sharing your work experience with us.

Emily Gracey ([37:20](#)):

Thank you both. It was so good to see you both again and less of an official way, at least on my end.

Kelly Savoie ([37:28](#)):

Well, that's our show for today. Please join us next time. Rain or shine.

Clear Skies Ahead: Conversations about careers in meteorology and beyond is a podcast by the American Meteorological Society. Our show is edited by Johnny Le. Technical direction is provided by Peter Killelea. Our theme music is composed and performed by Steve Savoie, and the show is hosted by Emma Collins and Kelly Savoie. You can learn more about the show online@www.ametsoc.org/clearskies. And you can contact us at Skypodcast@ametsoc.org. If you have any feedback, I would like to become a future guest.